REMARKS

Upon entry of the above Amendment, claims 1-6, 13-19, and 21-30 are pending. Claims 1-6, 13 and 16-19 are amended; claims 7-12 and 20 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer; and new claims 21-30 are added. Applicants believe that these changes do not add new matter. In view of the foregoing amendments and following Remarks, allowance of all the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Examiner Interview

Applicants would like to thank Examiner Hossain and Examiner Hwang for the courtesies extended to Applicants' representatives during an Examiner Interview on February 25, 2003.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-4, 13-16, and 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,212,730 to Wheatley *et al.* ("Wheatley") in view of "Automatic Name Searching in Large Data Bases of International Names," by John C. Hermansen ("Hermansen"). Claims 5, 6, 17, and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Wheatley in view of Hermansen, and further in view of PC-NAS, referred to in Applicants specification at page 5, lines 11-17 ("PC-NAS"). Claim 19has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable Hermansen. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections as these references, alone or in combination with one another, do not disclose, teach or suggest each and every feature of the claimed invention.

However, in an effort to expedite prosecution of this application, Applicants have amended claim 1, for example, to include the features of "obtaining text data representing a first proper name," "classifying the text data representing said first proper name into one or more predetermined classifications," and "converting the text data representing said first proper name to one or more representations of said first proper name in a phonetic alphabet using rules associated with said one or more

predetermined classifications." At least these features are not disclosed, taught or suggested by the references relied upon by the Examiner.

Specifically, Wheatley discloses receiving the spoken input of a name. Thus, Wheatley does not disclose obtaining *text* data representing a first proper name, classifying the *text* data representing said first proper name into one or more predetermined classifications, or converting the *text* data representing said first proper name to one or more representations of said first proper name in a phonetic alphabet. For at least these reasons, claim 1 is patentable over Wheatley.

Furthermore, Wheatley does not disclose *classifying* the text data ... *into one or more predetermined classifications* or *converting* the text data ... to one or more representations... *using rules associated with said one or more predetermined classifications*. For at least these reasons, claim 1 is patentable of Wheatley.

Neither Hermansen or PC-NAS make up for the deficiencies of Wheatley discussed above. Thus, the combination of Wheatley with Hermansen and/or PC-NAS does not teach or suggest the features of claim 1.

Claim 13 and new claims 21, 23, and 30 include features similar to at least one of those discussed above with regard to claim 1. For at least these reasons, claim 13 and new claims 21, 23 and 30 are patentable over the references relied upon by the Examiner. Claims 2-6, 12-18, 22, and 24-29 depend from and add additional features to one of claims 1, 13, 21, and 23. For at least these reasons, these dependent claims are also patentable over the references relied upon by the Examiner.

With regard to claim 19, Hermansen does not teach or suggest each and every feature of claim 19. Hermansen discloses using a n-gram algorithm to perform the matching aspects of claim 19 rather than an algorithm based on phonetic alphabet representations. For at least this reason, claim 19 is patentable over Hermansen.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Dated: June 18, 2003   Respectfully submitted,

29315

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